

St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church

Virtual Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Present: Pr. David Parsons, Marc Youngblood, Andrew Kjoller, Lynda Anderson, Fran Onne-Fong, Laura Gruenburg, Deborah Maltby, Katherine Anderson, Jodi Cook, Jolynn Johnson, Anne Voorhies, Tammy Johnson.

A quorum was present

Excused Absence: Allison Struthers.

Also Present: Deacon Eric Johnson.

Prayer: Opening prayer was led by Pr. David Parsons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM

Secretary: Fran Onne-Fong

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the agenda as amended.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on May 9, 2023 as amended.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Parsons presented written and oral reports that the Agarwal and Hager families, who found our church online, formally became members and Avi Agarwal, Jackson Hager, and Willa Hager were baptized. This was a testament to our commitment to live stream our services. He also reported that the Youth and Children's service on Sunday, June 11th was enthusiastically responded to by the congregation. He acknowledged and thanked the Co-Superintendents Allison Struthers and Jennifer Herbert and all the Sunday school teachers who helped the young people craft a meaningful service of worship. Volunteers who support the church's ministry including the choir, church council, acolytes, ushers and many others were recognized and monogrammed Bibles were given to several youth. Pastor Parsons officiated at the wedding of a member of this congregation whose mother is on the church council.

Finance Report: Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, and the Budget Committee met and put together a budget for fiscal year 2024. Andrew Kjoeller, Vice President and member of the Budget Committee, explained the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2023 -

June 30, 2024 as well as the shortfalls in the budget of this past fiscal year. We learned that we need to raise our giving each Sunday by \$500 to meet our needs. In other words, if the church's offerings were \$800, we need it to be \$1,300 every week to meet our needs. Council approved the proposed budget and it will be presented and recommended for adoption to the entire congregation on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

Property Report: Lynda Anderson will follow-up on the three recommended names of companies and will get bids from them for the LGBTQ+ banner and find out whether we can install the banner where an existing banner is instead of using a flagpole. Funds will be raised from the congregation for the banner but \$2000 is already secured so the congregation will only need to raise the balance.

Social Ministry: St. JME will be hosting ESL classes for adult migrants for 6 weeks this summer 2023 from July - August two times a week. There will be a need for volunteers for childcare during the classes.

Unfinished/Continuing Business: Jodi Cook, council member, has begun informing different community organizations about setting-up information stations here, after worship, at St. JME September 10, 2023 on ELCA God's Hand Work Day for our social ministry. She needs someone to help and work with her in this ministry.

New Business: Pastor Parsons presented a proposal to have the Prospect Park Board Game Club use the social hall which potentially could mean an extra \$1,000 a month for the church. He agreed that he will need to gather more information, check with Farrah Franqui, our sexton, again, and also to investigate their insurance, our insurance and our security concerns. The Club's last game will be Friday, June 23, 2023 and Marc Youngblood, Jolynn Johnson and Jodi Cook will possibly be attending it to assess the group, their needs and gain more perspective.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

Submitted by: Fran Onne-Fong